GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3892
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
HEAVY IMPORT DUTY
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cultivators of dry copra (coconut) in the State of Karnataka particularly in Tiptur are facing great hardships due to fall in price of copra;

(b) if so, whether State Government of Karnataka has urged to the Union Governmentto impose Heavy Import Duty on this product to control its coconut imports; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)
(a): The price policy for Copra for 2000 season is under consideration of the Government. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) hasbeen directed to procure Copra at the MSP rate of 1999 of Rs.3100 per Qtl. for milling and 3325 per qtl. for Ball copra until MSP for copra for the current year is announced. The market prices for Ball copra at Tiptur is ruling well above the MSP declared for the year 1999.

(b)&(c): The Government of India has so far not received any representation from theGovernment of Karnataka to impose heavy import duty on the product to control coconut imports. As per the existing EXIM policy, coconut oil and its products are canalized through State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation

(HVOC). Copra is attracting the tariff rate of 35% with a surcharge of 10% in addition to the basic duty of 35%. In respect of coconut oil, whether crude or refined, the effective rate is 35% with Surcharge @ 10%. 4% Special Additional Customs Duty (SAD) shall be charged to both copra and coconut oil whether imported for further processing or trading.